

Appl. No. 09/751,314
Amdt. dated June 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a material comprising:
 providing a heat-sensitive latent polymer material;
 applying a sensitizer to at least a portion of the polymer material; and
 exposing the polymer material having the sensitizer thereon to microwave radiation,
wherein the microwave radiation is at a power greater than about 1.0 kW.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the heat-sensitive latent polymer material is selected from olefinic elastomer-ethylene copolymer; polyether; polyether-polyamide copolymer; polyamide; polyester; polyurethane; polyacrylates; polyester-polyamide copolymer; polyvinylacetate; or ethylene-propylene copolymer.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sensitizer is selected from homopolymers, block and random copolymers of polyether, polyethylene glycol, and polyether-polyethylene glycol; ionic polymers and copolymers; metal salts; organic solvents; or combinations thereof.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer material having the sensitizer thereon is placed on a web and is passed through the microwave radiation at a preselected web speed.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the web speed is greater than about 200 ft/min.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the web speed is greater than about 250 ft/min.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the web speed is greater than about 300 ft/min.
8. (Cancelled)

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9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[8]] 1, wherein the microwave radiation is at a power greater than about 3.0 kW.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[9]] 1, wherein the microwave radiation is at a power greater than about 6.0 kW.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sensitizer is applied to the polymer material using a coating technique.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the coating technique is selected from screen printing; roller coating; melt blown coating; bead coating; ultrasonic spray coating, or by directly incorporating the sensitizer into the latent polymer by blending or compounding technologies.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer material is in the shape of a film.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer material is in the shape of a strand.

15.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A patterned material having a controlled tension made from a process comprising:

providing a heat-sensitive latent polymer material;

applying a sensitizer to at least a portion of the polymer material; and

exposing the polymer material having the sensitizer thereon to microwave radiation,

wherein the microwave radiation is at a power greater than about 1.0 kW.

24. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the polymer material having the sensitizer thereon is placed on a web and is passed through the microwave radiation at a web speed of greater than about 300 ft/min.

25. (Cancelled)

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26. (Currently Amended) The patterned material of Claim ~~[[25]]~~ 23, wherein the microwave radiation is at a power greater than about 3.0 kW.

27. (Currently Amended) The patterned material of Claim ~~[[26]]~~ 23, wherein the microwave radiation is at a power greater than about 6.0 kW.

28. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the microwave radiation is at a power of about 900 W, at a frequency of about 2450 MHz, and is at a duration of about 5 seconds.

29. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the heat-sensitive latent polymer film is selected from olefinic elastomer-ethylene copolymer; polyether; polyether-polyamide copolymer; polyamide; polyester; polyurethane; polyacrylates; polyester-polyamide copolymer; polyvinylacetate; or ethylene-propylene copolymer.

30. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the sensitizer is selected from homopolymers, block and random copolymers of polyether, polyethylene glycol, and polyether-polyethylene glycol; ionic polymers and copolymers; metal salts; organic solvents; or combinations thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the sensitizer is applied to the polymer material using a coating technique that is selected from screen printing; roller coating; melt blown coating; bead coating; ultrasonic spray coating, or by directly incorporating the sensitizer into the latent polymer by blending or compounding technologies.

32. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the polymer material is in the shape of a film.

33. (Previously Presented) The patterned material of Claim 23, wherein the polymer material is in the shape of a strand.